

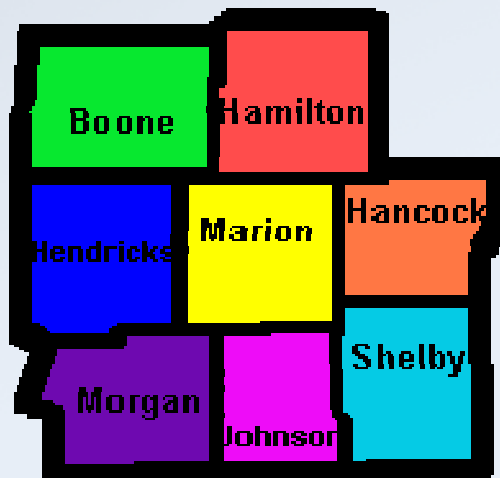


*Bryan Wolfe, Central Indiana District*

**Law Enforcement—Fire—EMS  
Emergency Management  
Health & Hospital  
Search & Rescue  
Training  
Communications  
Public Information  
Hazardous Materials  
Critical Infrastructure  
Public-Private Partnerships**

# **News YOU Can USE**

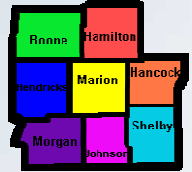
**JANUARY 2010**





# News YOU Can Use

**Indiana Department of Homeland Security**  
**Bryan Wolfe - Central Indiana District Program Manager**



January 2010

Volume 10, Issue 1

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## Nuisance 9-1-1 Calls: A Dangerous Epidemic

It is an all-too-common scenario for local 9-1-1 call takers. A call on the 9-1-1 line is a child playing, or cursing, on the telephone. Thousands of these nuisance calls occur annually in Indiana. If the dispatcher has time, he/she might call back the phone and speak with a parent to inform them of their child's behavior. An emerging trend, however, is starting to cause a problem. The low cost of cellular phones has made them nearly disposable. Many consumers get new phones annually. Parents are often giving their old cellular phones to their young children to play with. After all, the service is shut off, what

could it hurt? While the service may be shut off, 9-1-1 is not disabled. Children who dial 9-1-1 on these phones are placing an additional burden on already overburdened dispatchers. Even worse, since the service is shut off on the phone, dispatchers are unable to call the phone and gain a parents attention in an effort to remedy the problem. One jurisdiction in California (Sacramento) has found a solution to the problem – issuing progressive \$250.00 fines to abusers of the 9-1-1 system. Phones with discontinued service are traced back to the last

(Continued on page 3)



Greenwood, Indiana Police Department proudly shows off their new Emergency Response Team vests, purchased with grant funding from the 2009 Recovery Act JAG Award.

## Severe Thunderstorm Warning Hail Criterion Changes

On Tuesday January 4, 2010, the National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Tulsa will operationally change the minimum hail size criterion used to issue Severe Thunderstorm Warning (SVR) and Severe Weather Statement (SVS) products.

**The change will increase the minimum hail size criterion from three-quarter inch (penny) diameter or larger hail, which has been the NWS's warning criterion for hail since the 1950s, to one inch (quarter) diameter or larger hail.**

This change will affect all NWS Offices across the nation. No change is being made to the severe thunderstorm wind criterion of gusts equal to or in excess of 50 knots (58 mph).

Several offices within the NWS have engaged in the experimental use of this warning criterion for hail for

several years. Feedback gathered during this test period, as well as feedback gathered during a more-recent on-line survey, suggested that most NWS partners and users supported the idea of making this change permanent and more universal across the country.

**Based on results of this experimental test period, the number of severe thunderstorm warnings that NWS Offices issue may decrease by as much as 30 to 40 percent annually.**

Instead of issuing warnings for thunderstorms that are expected to produce penny and nickel size hail, beginning at 601 pm CST January 4, the NWS Office in Tulsa will issue Significant Weather Alerts to address these storms.

Questions or comments concerning this upcoming product change should be directed to: [ed.calianese@noaa.gov](mailto:ed.calianese@noaa.gov)

## Weekly Report of Road

### Construction/ Closures available

A weekly comprehensive list of Roads Closed, Construction projects, or other lane closures which might impact your travels throughout Central Indiana, including the City of Indianapolis, as well as Central Indiana INDOT project is available from the City of Indianapolis website. This list is e-mailed every Friday evening. To sign-up, surf to the internet link: <http://www.indy.gov/Newsletters/Pages/home.aspx> and click on the "Traffic" box.

Nuisance 9-1-1 Calls,  
Continued from Pg. 2...

registered user, who is responsible for the invoice. Several other West Coast cities have followed suit, one jurisdiction reporting \$400,000 in fines in just one year. Local agencies are encouraged to proactively think how to reduce this potentially life-threatening problem. What public education can your jurisdiction initiate to reduce your local 9-1-1 abuse problem?





## Winter Danger from LED Traffic Warning Devices



The driver of a pickup truck approaching an intersection in the far western suburb of Oswego, IL went past a red light obscured by snow and struck a 34-year-old woman turning left in her car. The woman died and four other people were injured in the accident, which was among the first to raise concerns about a relatively new driving hazard related to inclement weather: traffic signals, like those in Oswego, that use [light-emitting diodes](#), known as LEDs.

The new lighting is part of a fast-growing trend in environmentalism. LED bulbs use less energy, last longer and are more visible than their predecessors. They are also known to require less maintenance. But they do not emit nearly as much heat as conventional bulbs, allowing snow and ice to accumulate more easily in certain conditions. *Many agencies in and around Central Indiana have utilized available Stimulus Funds to replace their aging Traffic Signal Lights and Railroad Crossing Lights with LED technology.*

“Do I think the accident would have happened if the light was not covered in snow?” said Detective Rob Sherwod of the Oswego Police Department, referring to the accident in April. “I’d be willing to bet that it would not have happened if the driver that went through the light had an unobstructed view of the signal. It was the first indication in this community that the LED lights were not melting the snow.”

In the last seven years, Wisconsin has converted more than 90 percent of the lighting under state control to LED bulbs.

“We certainly do see crashes and accidents attributed to the fact that people can’t see the heads,” said Joanna Bush, a traffic signal systems engineer for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, referring to traffic signals’ colored lenses. “Due to the volume of snow we’ve been getting — good, wet heavy snow — it packs in.” Transportation officials have been dispatching workers with brooms to clear the lenses, Ms. Bush said. They are also experimenting with a solution that is less labor-intensive and more permanent, outfitting some of the lenses with sloping snow shields to make it harder for snow to stick.

Agencies utilizing LED Traffic Warning technology should review their policies and procedures for reducing the likelihood that obstructed signs or signals contribute to the cause of traffic collisions incidents in your local jurisdiction.

(Story adapted from the New York Times, January 1, 2010)



## The Technology Beat: New Decade, New Options

Google, the internet search engine mogul, has created a product called Google Voice. This free resource allows you to pick a local telephone number, and tie multiple existing phone lines into that one number. For example, you can make multiple phones (your work of all, you will never have to inform phone and your personal phone) ring just by dialing one telephone number; as a result, you can give everyone one generic phone number, then you can sign it to ring wherever/however you desire. You can set-up custom voice-mail greetings depending on who is calling you. You can screen callers by making them provide their name before your phone even rings and determine if you choose to speak with the caller prior to accepting their call. You can speak to many people at once utilizing one number. Best of all, you will never have to inform people of new telephone numbers, because even if you change your work, home, personal cell number, etc, your Google Voice number will remain the same. How can you find out more information? Google it, of course!

(This is not an endorsement)

# Become Involved!

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Central Indiana District Five "District Planning Council" committees have been formed. If you are an individual who has subject matter expertise in one of our committee or subcommittee areas, you are encouraged to inquire about participation. Participation is NOT limited to

public safety personnel; subject matter experts in the private sector are encouraged to participate. E-mail the contact below:

## Hospital

- Ken Whisman
- [ken.whisman@thin.com](mailto:ken.whisman@thin.com)

## Health

- Greg Hall
- [psh5254@indygov.org](mailto:psh5254@indygov.org)

## Training & Exercise

- Lise Crouch
- [lcrouch@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:lcrouch@co.hendricks.in.us)

## Public Information

- Ron Lipps
- [lippsr@fishers.in.us](mailto:lippsr@fishers.in.us)

## Public-Private Partnership

- Chris Palabrica
- [chrisp@mayschem.com](mailto:chrisp@mayschem.com)

## Critical Infrastructure & Key Assets

- Mike Woida
- [w4042@indygov.org](mailto:w4042@indygov.org)

## Task Force

- Bill Brown
- [b6033@indygov.org](mailto:b6033@indygov.org)

## Search & Rescue

- Mike Pruitt
- [Mike.pruitt@waynetwp.org](mailto:Mike.pruitt@waynetwp.org)

## Support Services

- Jim Curseaden
- [jcurseaden@lawtwp.org](mailto:jcurseaden@lawtwp.org)

## Haz-Mat

- Jerry Nulliner
- [Nullinerj@fishers.in.us](mailto:Nullinerj@fishers.in.us)

## Law Enforcement

- Joe Finch
- [F1911@indygov.org](mailto:F1911@indygov.org)

## Communications & Warning

- Doug Burris
- [dburris@hccom.org](mailto:dburris@hccom.org)

## EMS

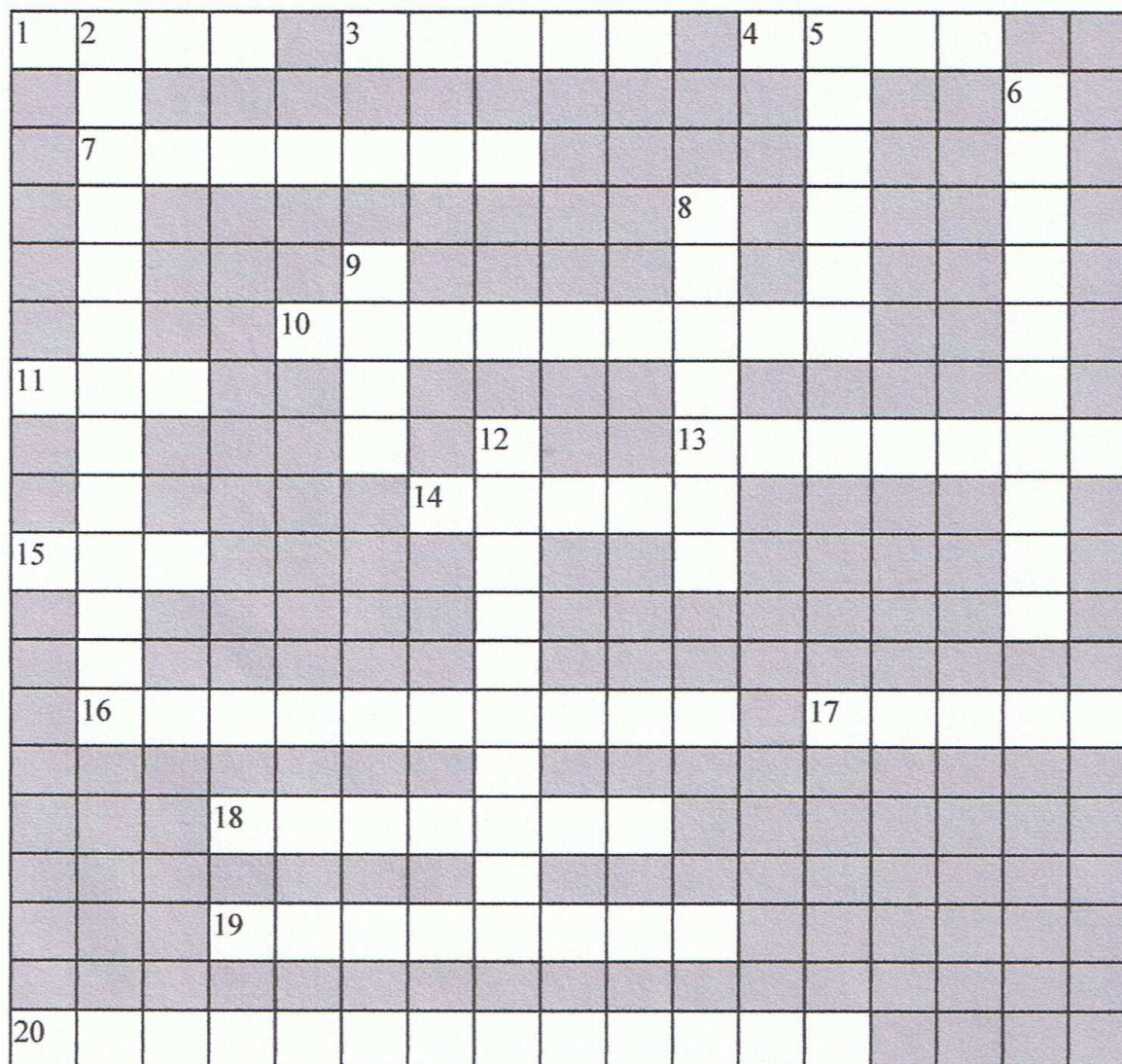
- Julia Fox
- [jfox3@clarian.org](mailto:jfox3@clarian.org)

## Fire

- Joel Thacker
- [jthacker@wrtfd.org](mailto:jthacker@wrtfd.org)

## IMAT

- Dave Owens
- [O0150@indygov.org](mailto:O0150@indygov.org)

**ACROSS**

1. Obstructs LED lights in Winter
3. New IDHS Grants Section Chief
4. District Planning Oversight Committee
7. Chairman of IECGP Committee
11. Johnson Co EMA Nickname
13. Shelby Co EMA Director
14. District 5 Field Coordinator
15. Task Force
16. A reason to switch to LEDs
17. District 5 Law Enforcement Chairman
18. Division Director of IDHS Field Services
19. Hamilton Co EMA Operations Commander

**DOWN**

2. Name of newsletter
5. District 5 Search & Rescue Chairman
6. This gets 300+ mpg of diesel fuel
8. IDHS State Training Officer
9. Solution to 9-1-1 abuse
12. New FREE phone option

## Law Enforcement, Drug Court, & Juvenile Justice Grant Money

Visit the USDOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance webpage for grant information:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

### Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant

Release date: December 15, 2009

Applications due: February 11, 2010

### Enhancing Adult Drug Court Services, Coordination, and Treatment

Release date: December 15, 2009

Applications due: February 11, 2010

### Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Release date: December 1, 2009

Applications due January 21, 2010

### Second Chance Act Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects

Release date: December 22, 2009

Applications due: March 4, 2010

## Pipeline Safety Training

An additional opportunity not appearing on the training calendar is this year's Pipeline Safety training events, courtesy of the Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association. This event is open to any public safety personnel. The event is a good opportunity to learn about local Pipeline safety, network with local representatives, and obtain updated resource information. The training will be offered in two locations in Central Indiana:

### **Hendricks County location-**

January 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:30 PM  
Indiana Law Enforcement Academy  
5402 Sugar Grove Road,  
Plainfield, IN 46168

### **Marion County location-**

January 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 5:30 PM  
Firefighter Union Hall 416,  
748 Massachusetts Avenue,  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Registration and meal (free) are at 5:30 PM and the program begins approximately 30-45 minutes following registration.

There will be door prizes as well as the free meal and free training.

Please go to [www.inpaa.org](http://www.inpaa.org) to pre-register for one of these events.

Once on the INPAA site just click on the "Registration" block on the home page and fill out the information requested.

## Helpful Online Resources

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.in.gov/dhs>

Indiana DHS Training Calendar

<https://oas.in.gov:4443/hs/training/public/calendar.do>

IDHS First Responder Online Training System

<http://indianafirstresponder.org/catalog.html>

IDHS District Programs Info Page

<http://www.in.gov/dhs/districtprograms.htm>

IDHS Certifications Look-Up

<https://oas.in.gov/dfbs/emsonline/ems/person.do?method=personLookup>

Central Indiana Fire Training

<http://indianafiretraining.com/District5/>

Ready Indy Website

<http://readyindy.org/ri/>





# Calendar of Events



## District Training Events

Begin Date	End Date	Training/Event
1/7/2010	1/8/2010	NIMS ICS-300 (Airport)
1/11/2010	1/15/2010	AHIMT Safety Officer Training
1/12/2010	1/12/2010	IDHS District Preparedness/EMA Workshop
1/14/2010	1/15/2010	NIMS ICS-400 (Airport)
1/19/2010	1/19/2010	The Leaders Role Course ( <b>Course Full</b> )
1/22/2010	1/29/2010	AHIMT Ops Section Chief Training
1/23/2010	1/24/2010	Command for Company Officers
1/28/2010	1/30/2010	Leadership Initiative Program
2/8/2010	2/12/2010	AHIMT Incident Commander Training
2/8/2010	2/12/2010	Intelligence Analyst Training Program
2/9/2010	2/11/2010	Tactical Shield Instructor Course
2/9/2010	2/10/2010	NIMS ICS-400 (Morgan County)
2/16/2010	2/17/2010	NIMS ICS-400 (Morgan County)
2/22/2010	2/26/2010	AHIMT Planning Section Chief Training
3/15/2010	3/18/2010	Less Lethal Instructor School
4/19/2010	4/23/2010	CVSA Basic Examiners Course
4/27/2010	4/29/2010	4th Annual WMD Anti-Terrorism Conference
5/10/2010	5/12/2010	High Risk Warrant Service Course

To find out additional information about District Training events, contact:

District Training & Exercise Committee Chair Lise Crouch at: [lcrouch@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:lcrouch@co.hendricks.in.us)



### Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Central Indiana District Five  
Bryan Wolfe - Central Indiana District Program Manager

